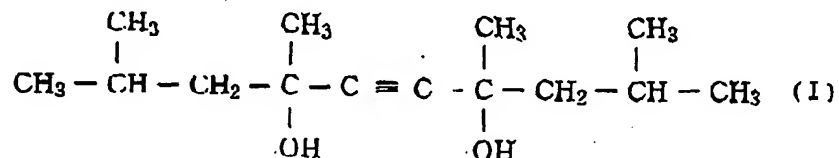


What Is Claimed Is:

1. An ink composition containing at least: a coloring agent, 2-pyrrolidone, a surfactant, a butyl ether-based solvent, water, and a water-soluble organic solvent wherein said surfactant is a chemical compound represented by the following chemical formula (I):



2. The ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of said surfactant, butyl ether-based solvent, and 2-pyrrolidone is 1:4:4 to 1:20:20.

3. The ink composition according to claim 2 wherein the butyl ether-based solvent is triethylene glycol monobutyl ether.

4. The ink composition according to claim 2 employed in an inkjet recording method using an inkjet recording head comprising a nozzle plate wherein some of the ink repellent coating layer that is coated onto the external surface of said nozzle plate is introduced on to the inner surface of said nozzle such that the volume of the gap within the

nozzle from the outer surface of the nozzle plate as far as the meniscus-forming face is in a range of 0.05 to 0.50 with respect to the quantity of ink that is discharged.

5. The ink composition according to claim 2 wherein the added amount of said coloring agent is 1 to 5 weight% with respect to the ink composition.

6. The ink composition according to claim 2 further containing dispersant.

7. The ink composition according to claim 6 wherein said dispersant is styrene-(meth)acrylic acid based water-soluble resin.

8. The ink composition according to claim 2 in which said water-soluble organic solvent has a boiling point of at least 180 °C.

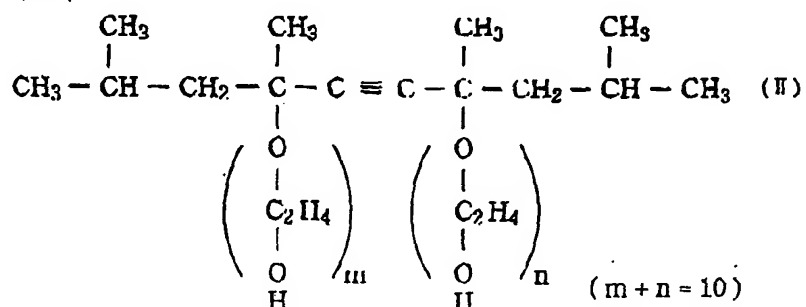
9. The ink composition according to claim 2 further containing as said water-soluble organic solvent a tertiary amine .

10. The ink composition according to claim 2 further containing alkali hydroxide, alginic acid derivative, or a sugar or sugar derivative.

11. The ink composition according to claim 9 wherein said sugar derivative is a reduced sugar, oxidized sugar, sugar dehydration derivative, amino sugar, or thio-sugar.

12. The ink composition according to claim 4 wherein said ink repellent coating layer is formed by co-deposition plating.

13. The ink composition according to claim 1 further including a compound represented by the following chemical formula (II).



14. The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of the chemical compound represented by said chemical formula (I) is at least 1 weight% of the total amount.

15. The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of the chemical compound represented by said chemical formula (I) is 1 to 3 weight%.

16. The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of the chemical compound represented by said chemical formula (II) is at least 1 weight%.

17. The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein said butyl ether-based solvent is triethylene glycol monobutyl ether or diethylene glycol monobutyl ether.

18. The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein said coloring agent is C. I. Pigment Yellow 128.

19. The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of said coloring agent is 15 weight% or less in the total amount of the ink composition, the content of said 2-pyrrolidone is at least 2 weight% in the total amount of the ink composition, and the content of said butyl ether-based solvent is at least 4 weight% in the total amount of the ink composition.

20. The ink composition according to claim 13 further containing a polymeric dispersant having a carboxyl group in the molecule.

21. The ink composition according to claim 13 further containing a moisture-retaining agent selected from the group consisting of glycerin, diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.

22. A recording method wherein formation of a recording is performed by depositing the ink composition of claim 1 on a recording medium.

23. The recording method according to claim 22 being an inkjet recording method wherein printing is performed by discharging drops of the ink composition using said recording method and depositing these drops on the recording medium.

24. The recording method according to claim 23 employing an inkjet recording head comprising a nozzle plate that has been subjected to ink repellent treatment.

25. A recording method wherein formation of a recording is performed by filling a tank accommodating in its interior a foam comprising a porous member with the ink composition according to claim 1 and discharging it from this tank to a recording head.

26. A recording wherein the ink composition according to claim 1 is deposited on a recording medium in a prescribed pattern.